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Publications

ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

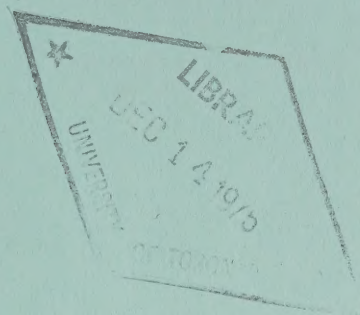
OPEN MEETING WITH LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

NOVEMBER 29, 1974

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ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

MINUTES

4-0081 MEETING

OPEN MEETING WITH LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

LOCATION

Lakehead University  
Thunder Bay

DATE AND TIME

November 29, 1974  
1:30 P.M.

4-0082 ATTENDANCE

OCUA MEMBERS

J. S. Dupré

W. E. Bagnall

D. G. Hill

P. D. Fleck

A. D'Iorio

R. Gerstein

T. R. Léger

L. Good

R. P. Riggin

W. A. Goyan

H. H. Walker

OCUA STAFF

J. P. Venton  
Executive Secretary

N. E. Simmons  
Associate Secretary

MCU (Observers)

P. J. Wright  
University Affairs Officer

COU (Observers)

P. Isaacs





LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY DELEGATION

Dr. J. T. Angus  
Dean of Education

Dr. H. S. Braun  
Dean of University Schools

Dr. W. J. McDonnell  
Registrar

Dr. W. T. Melnyk  
Dean of Arts

Dr. R. A. Ross  
Dean of Science

Mr. G. H. Thompson  
Vice-President (Finance)

Dr. A. D. Booth  
President

Dr. C. F. Kent  
President, Lakehead University  
Faculty Association

Mr. B. G. Mason  
Vice-President (Administration)

Mr. R. Philpot  
Chairman, Board of Governors

Mrs. G. S. Service  
Executive Assistant to the  
President

Dr. S. Walker  
Chairman, Senate Graduate  
Studies Committee

OTHER SPEAKERS

Dr. M. Bartley  
Member of Board of Governors

Miss J. Elliott  
President of Lakehead University  
Students' Association

Mr. J. Elwert  
Member of Board of Governors





The hearing opened with a statement from the Chairman of the Board which is attached to these Minutes as Appendix "A". The President then made a lengthy presentation, supplementing the written brief with the following major points:

(i) Lakehead is a true regional University that has enjoyed substantial "grass roots" financial support, performs regionally-oriented research, and is the region's principle educational and cultural asset.

(ii) There have been harmful reductions in support staff; to balance the 1975-76 budget up to 120 faculty might have to be terminated out of a total complement of 220. This would be tantamount to closing the institution.

(iii) There has been a considerable reduction of faculty by attrition; the University cannot make further reductions without a total loss of core faculty in fields essential to the life of the University (e.g. philosophy).

(iv) Faculty salaries lag behind those in southern universities, for example the University of Guelph. In addition, Lakehead's isolation creates special costs for faculty travel and sabbaticals.

(v) It is time that small universities received the recognition that is their due; accordingly, the Government's additional spending for 1975-76 should be apportioned among universities by dividing the global increase by 15.

(vi) The quality of teaching and research has been undermined by the fiscal depreciation and technological obsolescence of equipment.

(vii) Lakehead's *raison d'être* is to maximize accessibility to university education for all students.

(viii) The proposed shift of diploma courses to Confederation College is educationally unwarranted and threatens the very life of the University.







The President of the Faculty Association warmly associated himself with the brief and President's remarks. In particular he elaborated on the problems of faculty travel and sabbaticals, and on the difficulty of attracting and retaining highly qualified individuals.

Mr. Elwert, a member of the University Board representing the Thunder Bay Labour Council, emphasized the inadequacy of recent salary settlements for faculty and support staff. He noted the gross inequity whereby Lakehead employees were being called upon to subsidize the taxpayer through inadequate salaries.

The President of the Students' Council observed that Lakehead distinctly enhances the upward mobility of students from lower income groups. She noted also that the consequences of fiscal austerity, through generating uncertainties about the future of the University, have had harmful effects on the morale of present and future students.

Dr. Bartley elaborated on the adverse effects of the present situation of student morale, noting that this might increase the propensity of students to transfer elsewhere. In particular, he observed that the diploma programmes were not only the lifeblood of the University but created a unique opportunity whereby degree and diploma students gained a mutual appreciation for each other's level of knowledge before joining the labour force.

4-0084 CONFEDERATION COLLEGE

The delegation elaborated on the origin of Confederation College noting in particular that at the time of its creation the Province had found it expedient to balance Lakehead University in Port Arthur with a college of applied arts and technology in Fort William. The delegation felt that delivery of post-secondary education in the region would benefit from amalgamation of Lakehead and Confederation







under a common board of governors, but that this concept had been rejected by the College. The University's proposal, it was noted, would assist both institutions in cutting costs and rationalizing resources in addition to removing conflict over diploma programme jurisdiction.

4-0085

PROGRAMMES

(i) Diploma Programmes

In response to queries concerning diploma programmes the President elaborated on matters noted in the University's brief and agreed to forward copies of the Engineering Technology Committee's report as soon as it was completed.

(ii) Off-Campus and Part-Time Instruction

The delegation noted that while provision of on-campus part-time programmes and correspondence courses did not pose difficulties, problems had been encountered in the provision of courses given in remote locations. These arose primarily from the sparse and decreasing population base and student demand for increased diversity of offerings. Correspondence students were required to reside on campus before a degree could be granted.

(iii) Ethnic and Native Programmes

Elaborating on the brief, the delegation noted the following examples of programming for native and ethnic groups: (1) the Faculty of Education was interested in offering a programme to prepare native Canadians to teach in Indian Schools. To this end a grant had been received for the development of the programme and a local native planning specialist appointed. Generally, it was felt that the best approach to providing courses for native people was the development of transitional programmes which would bring these students into the regular stream. However, it was stressed that the University lacked start-up funds for such efforts.





(2) It was noted that a summer course to be held in Kenora concerning current Indian problems was being planned in response to interest expressed by the native community. (3) Application had been made to the Department of Indian Affairs for funding to start-up an effort similar to the small business assistance programme which would offer like services to businessmen on Reserves.

(4) Contract research grants had been received for the investigation of economic difficulties on Indian Reserves, along with various other short term specifically native-oriented projects.

(iv) Remedial Work

The necessity for remedial teaching for entrants was felt to be a Province-wide, rather than regional, problem. The University found English language ability to be the primary area of difficulty. The delegation noted that the faculty were involved to a large extent in informal liaison with regional secondary schools.

4-0086

THE UNIVERSITY AND THE STUDENT BODY

The delegation noted that Lakehead University could be considered a largely "blue collar" institution and the sole working class University in the country. It was noted that 75% of students received Ontario student aid and that 90% of graduates were the first in their families to receive degrees. The geographic location of the University, it was stressed, constituted the reason for its existence and accounted for its research efforts, the nature of its student body, and its mix of educational offerings.

4-0087

COOPERATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Lakehead's membership in the Lake Superior Association of Colleges and Universities, Council learned, promoted faculty exchanges and international cooperation. The Association currently received support from a United States grant and it





was hoped it would become operational and self-supporting by the time the grant expired. The delegation expressed reservations concerning Lakehead's membership on the Council of Ontario Universities noting in particular its geographic isolation from other institutions and the costs resulting from past attendance at COU meetings. It was suggested that it was not appropriate for such costs to be met out of the University's limited operating funds.

4-0088


RESEARCH

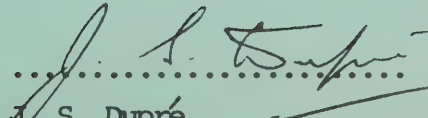
The delegation pointed out that Lakehead had a relatively greater proportion of research income than other small universities. This was attributed in part to its attention to regional research needs, faculty calibre, and faculty commitment to research and graduate teaching.

4-0089

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

In a discussion of special programme problems the delegation stressed that fiscal stringency could be an obstacle to the full development of a major new initiative in Geology which it was hoped would receive initial funding from an NRC negotiated grant.

  
.....  
N. E. Simmons  
Associate Secretary

  
.....  
J. S. Dupré  
Chairman





November 20, 1974

## STATEMENT TO ONTARIO COUNCIL OF UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

With my short experience as Chairman of our Board, I feel some hesitation in speaking to this Council about the problems facing Ontario Universities in general, - you must by now be thoroughly familiar with them.

However, I have no hesitation in pressing the particular situation of Lakehead University, and hopefully, impressing council with some of the unique aspects of this institution. Most of the special features are fully and accurately covered in the "brief" you have before you, if indeed that is the proper noun to use to describe that rather lengthy document.

For several years, this small University, with several others, has been described as "emerging", and subject to the special grants for such "emerging" universities, for which we are certainly very grateful.

However, I respectfully submit that, if we have not "emerged" after nine years, we never shall. It is time, therefore, that some different adjectives were applied, such as "small" versus "large".

As a necessary corollary, a new grant system must be devised, that will acknowledge the different problems of the two categories.

The most casual examination of the comparative operating costs of the University system confirms the fact that the fundamental administrative cost base of the smaller newer universities is a greater percentage of the total budget than those of the larger and older institutions.

Add to this the fact that the larger institutions can and do have much larger classes, in most cases, and it becomes obvious that they can effect economies of operation in many ways that are simply not available to the smaller.





In the case of Lakehead, - it is the only university in an expanse 1,000 miles wide, serving many of the needs of this vast area in every way it can justifiably do so. Our board of Governors is determined to keep it alive and vital, responsive to the valid educational requirements of the people who fostered and supported its founding, with several millions of dollars, in our two major campaigns for donations.

We are aware of a growing sense of loyalty among our faculty, many of whom are now well established in Thunder Bay. We are confident that there is a much higher level of esprit de corps among the students, - plus the fact that the University is now a focal point for many of the area's cultural and athletic activities.

It simply cannot be allowed to languish on the vine, but must be permitted to mature at its present rate at least, if not to expand.

No effort has been spared to trim our operating costs, and our latest audited statement indicates the following significant facts.

| <u>Expenditures</u>           | <u>April 30/73</u> | <u>April 30/74</u>   |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Academic expenditures         | \$7,060,483        | \$7,264,082 - increase 2.86%   |
| Administrative expenditures   | 1,014,617          | 1,045,600 - increase 3.05%   |
| Student Services              | 79,743             | 76,525 - decrease-4.03%  |
| Plant                         | 1,315,267          | 1,406,944 - increase 6.97%<br>(largely due to increased cost of heating) |
| Ancillary Enterprises Deficit | (122,254)          | (60,006) - decrease - 33.9%  |





I have not seen comparable statements from other universities, but I am certain there are few if any which illustrate a more determined effort to control rising costs. By way of comparison, Statistics Canada shows a Consumer Price Index Increase of 6.35% in Toronto, and 6.30% in Winnipeg, during the same interval. This seems to be proof that there can be little fat left to trim from our costs of operation.

Despite all this careful scrutiny of expenditures, we face an estimated deficit of some \$500,000 in the year ending April 30, 1975.

For the year 1975-1976, we had forecast an operating deficit of \$1,000,000, based upon an assumed minimum B.I.C. value of \$2,150, representing a 10% increase in the B.I.C. value, and allowing for probable salary increases of \$1,300,000. I should say that this figure appeared, after a drastic pruning of a deficit of \$2,715,000, based upon first requests.

Just at this point, the Ministry announced the proposed grant structure for 1975-1976 with a global increase of \$2,000,000 for all of Ontario's universities.

Based upon the Ministry's estimate of university enrolments, published on October 31, 1974, Lakehead University has a full time student enrolment equal to 1.50% of the provincial total. If we were to accept an absolute pro rata share, with the older and much larger institutions, our pro rata share would yield only \$1,377,600 and we would face a deficit of almost \$1,700,000 for the second year, and this, with no relief in sight.

We consider this to be an intolerable situation, with the obvious obligation we have, to the students, to the public at large and to our over-worked faculty and administrative personnel, and





that therefore, some additional monetary relief is an absolute necessity. Indeed, the Minister's guideline, to the effect that 'our policy of accessibility should be maintained', constitutes one of the most powerful arguments for keeping Lakehead University alive and well.

There is no obvious or easy solution to this enigma. May I submit to this council, you who are to make a final recommendation to the Minister, that the newer and smaller universities do indeed have a solid case for a larger than pro rata share of the available funds.

Finally, because of its unique geographical situation, Lakehead University must continue as a viable and progressive institution. You may be assured that the Board of Governors with our strong administration will not permit any unnecessary expenditures.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my views.

